



HR0346

LRB099 11813 MST 33747 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The United States became involved in the conflict between North and South Vietnam in 1961 as an advisor to South Vietnam; and

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WHEREAS, United States involvement increased over the following decade; many citizens were called up and drafted to serve in the military, including many Illinoisans; and

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WHEREAS, Fifty years ago, on March 8, 1965, 3,500 United States Marines were deployed as the first U.S. ground combat troops to enter the conflict, and by the end of that year, there were almost 200,000 ground troops in Vietnam; and

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WHEREAS, The number of U.S. troops in Vietnam had doubled by the end of 1966 and reached almost 500,000 by the end of 1967, with American troops dying at a rate of approximately 100 per week; and

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WHEREAS, More than 58,000 members of the United States Armed Forces lost their lives in Vietnam and more than 300,000 members of the Armed Forces were wounded, including nearly 3,000 Illinoisans killed or listed as missing in action; and

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WHEREAS, Members of the United States Armed Forces, who

1 served bravely and faithfully for the United States during the
2 Vietnam War, upon returning home, were caught up in the
3 crossfire of public debate about the involvement of the United
4 States in the Vietnam War; and

5 WHEREAS, On the 50-year anniversary of the start of
6 American ground combat in Vietnam, soldiers who returned home
7 are still in many ways not given the credit that they are due,
8 and those who fought, bled, and died for our country deserve
9 proper recognition and appreciation; therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
11 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
12 stand united in our strong support of all military personnel
13 who served and sacrificed in the Vietnam War, no matter the
14 political affiliation and disagreements over the Vietnam War,
15 and call on all Illinoisans to show that support to all those
16 who wear the uniform; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That we offer our heartfelt gratitude to all
18 Vietnam veterans on the 50th anniversary of ground combat in
19 Vietnam and we urge communities across the State to consider
20 appropriate expressions of support and recognition for Vietnam
21 veterans living in their midst; and be it further

22 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be

1 presented to the Director of the Illinois Department of
2 Veterans' Affairs and the Illinois Vietnam Veterans of America.